Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
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President: Newsletter Editor:
Ted Craig Lucy Wait

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The summer months are gone and we are ready once again to initiate activities at the Lafayette Historical Society. For starters we have two outstanding programs that will set the mood for what we expect will be a productive year during which we will work toward the preservation of the landmards and of all other historical material that relates to our town.

THE WORLD RUSHED IN: THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH EXPERIENCE

On Tuesday, October 27, 1981, at 7:30p.m., at the Lafayette Library, Dr. J. S. Holliday will speak about his recently published book: THE WORLD RUSHED IN: THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH EXPERIENCE.

Dr. Holliday, who was a resident of Lafayette for some years and who was President of the Friends of the Lafayette Library at the time the library opened, is indeed a noted historian and author who has played leading roles in the Oakland Museum and in the California Historical Society. He is also well known as a talented, informative speaker who keeps his audience fully entertained. His approach as a speaker and his knowledge of the subject matter of his presentation - he spent thirty years researching and writing his book - should provide for an unforgettable evening.

This event is the result of a joint effort between the Friends of the Lafayette Library and the Lafayette Historical Society.

THE IMPROVERS OF LAFAYETTE

A new book which looks at Lafayette from her formative years through the present will be off the press and available for sale November 11. A preview of the book, The Improvers of Lafayette by Andrew H. Young, published by the Lafayette Historical Society, will be a feature of the Society's meeting on November 11.

After that date, the soft cover volume will be on sale at $9.95 (including tax) at the Lafayette Bookstore, The Needlepoint Shop

and the Lafayette Camera Shop or may be ordered by mail from the Lafayette Historical Society (see coupon at end of the newsletter)

A history of the Lafayette Improvement Association, the new book is being published in observance of that group's 70th anniversary. Mr. Young, a 20 year resident of Lafayette before moving to Alamo, has devoted two years to the researching and writing of the history. It includes many pictures never before published, and it traces the growth of Lafayette as it paralleled the history of the L.I.A.

Mr. Young, a former president of the L.I.A. and member of the Contra Costa County Planning Commission, has added valuable new material to the information previously available on Lafayette.

The 70th birthday party to celebrate the formation of the Lafayette Improvement Association sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library and the Lafayette Historical Society will take place on Wednesday, November 11, 1981, at 8p.m. at the Town Hall on Moraga Road and School street in Lafayette. Mr. Young will be the featured speaker. Copies of the 100 plus page book will be for sale. Mr. Young will be happy to autograph your copy.

The Society extends a special invitation to the past presidents of the L.I.A. to come to our November 11 Meeting.

ELAM BROWN - THE FOUNDER OF LAFAYETTE

During the summer the Lafayette Historical Society inaugurated the plaque dedicated to Elam Brown, founder of Lafayette. The plaque is located at Lafayette Circle. This event was the end result of the work and generosity of Ray Peters, our Landmarks Chairman, who spent a number of months doing research in an effort to locate the general area in which Brown's home was situated; and of Petar Jakovina, who financed the preparation and installation of the plaque.

A lovely dinner took place at Petar's Restaurant on July 29, 1981. There were seventy five guests present including former mayors of the city, members of the city council and of the planning commission as well as many members of our Society. The placing of the plaque coincided with the 13th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Lafayette.

The plaque reads as follows:

"ELAM AND MARGARET BROWN HOME-SITE

The founder of Lafayette built his principal home in this vicinity in 1858.

"Squire" Brown purchased the Rancho Acalanes in 1847 upon which he raised cattle and grain, and served as the miller for the area.

He became Alcalde of the District, was a member of the State Constitutional Convention, and acted as a State Assemblyman in California's first two legislatures.

Elam died in this house on August 10, 1889 at the age of 92.

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1981.

Mr. Petar Jakovina opened his first restaurant in Lafayette in 1959 in Mt. Diablo Blvd; ever since then he has been very much a part of our city to which he returned in January of this year, after a short absence, to open a new restaurant at 32 Lafayette Circle. When asked what had prompted his cooperation with the Lafayette Historical Society he said, "I am fond of Lafayette; this town has been good to me."

THE PICTURES OF EARLY LAFAYETTE

Twelve pictures of early Lafayette are now installed in the City Council chamber at the Veteran's building. The framing of the pictures was done by Hirsh Morton who designed the project for the rennovation of the entire chamber. The Lafayette Historical Society financed the pictures.

We suggest you stop by to see the set of photographs which include:

The Town Hall - 1914, Lafayette School - 1890s, Post Office of the turn of the century, The Pioneer Store - 1870s, the Way Side Inn of early 1900s, Moraga Road - 1915, Mt. Diablo Blvd. - 1869 and the Plaza area at the turn of the century.

WELCOME!

We are delighted to welcome the following new members in our Society:

Gail and Don Young
Gail and John Uilkema
Mrs. May Linville
Irene and Jop Van Overveen
Ruth Dobson
Chris and Bob Adams

We are ready for their suggestions and ideas in whatever aspect of our organization in which they have a special interest.

We would also like to remind you that you can become a Life Member by giving the Society a single, one time donation of $100.00. This donation will entitle you to receive our newsletter and to be included in all of the Society's activities on an on going basis.

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Please send me_____copies of THE IMPROVERS OF LAFAYETTE at $9.95 each, tax included. Enclosed is $_____. Please make checks payable to the Lafayette Historical Society and mail to P. O. Box 133, Lafayette, CA. - 94549. PLEASE ENCLOSE $1.00 PER BOOK FOR POSTAGE.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

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